

# WEATHER.

Partly overcast tonight and tomorrow; little change in temperature; lowest tonight about 24 degrees.  
Temperature for twenty-four hours ending 2 p.m. today: Highest, 35, at 4:20 p.m. yesterday; lowest, 26, at 8 a.m. today.  
Full report on page 19.

CLOSING NEW YORK STOCKS PAGE 19.

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WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 1916.—TWENTY-TWO PAGES.



"From Press to Home  
Within the Hour"

Sworn Net Circulation, Month of January, 1916, Daily Average, 77,876; Sunday, 66,116.

ONE CENT.

## NEED OF DELEGATE FORD, C. S. URGED

Witnesses Contend Residents  
Entitled to Some Tangible  
Part in Own Government.

## SENATOR POINDEXTER IS FIRST TO BE HEARD

Tells Senate Judiciary Subcommittee  
Plan Does Not Conflict With  
Constitutional Amendment Idea.

The need of granting to the people of the District some tangible part in their own government was voiced strongly today by witnesses appearing before the subcommittee on judiciary of the Senate District committee in support of the Chamberlain constitutional amendment, providing for the election of senators, representatives and members of the electoral college, and the Poinexter bill, which would give the District a delegate in the House.

Senator Poinexter of Washington, author of the delegate bill; former Senator Blair of New Hampshire and Roy C. Clavin, chairman of the District Delegate Association, were heard. Senator Poinexter and the representatives of the District Delegate Association declared themselves in favor of the Chamberlain constitutional amendment as well as of the delegate bill. They urged, however, the need of enacting the delegate bill into law, since this could be done by Congress without reference to the country for ratification and would give to the people of the District a voice in the House at an early date.

### Delegate Could Give Aid.

It was asserted also by the advocates of the delegate bill that the very fact that the District had a delegate in the House, empowered to speak in its interests, would aid in the final adoption of the constitutional amendment proposed to give the District the right to take part in national elections and legislation.

Mr. Clavin said in this connection: "If we, the citizens of the District, had a delegate in the House now, he would be able to speak in our behalf, and the House would be more likely to take up the amendment proposed to give the District the right to take part in national elections and legislation."

He called attention to the fact that such a resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution must be adopted by a two-thirds vote in both the Senate and the House, and that the states before it can become effective.

He suggested that it might take many years, a generation, to get such a resolution adopted, and that for that reason he believed it was particularly necessary to enact the delegate bill into law now. He pointed out that the Chamberlain amendment providing for the popular election of senators, although the matter was vitally interested in that the states were not so closely interested.

He said his bill also would establish in the District a political system through which the delegates to national conventions would be elected and that the delegates would be of great interest to the residents of the District, and that the delegates would be able to submit for a referendum.

### Could Be Effective Immediately.

"This legislation can be made effective immediately if Congress desires," he said.

Senator Pomeroy of Ohio, chairman of the committee, asked if it would not be possible for Congress to provide for a District delegate in the Senate as well as in the House, but Senator Poinexter replied that he believed the provisions of the Constitution relating to the membership of the Senate would not permit of such action.

### Hopes for Early Senate Action.

"The people in the District have the same history behind them and are of the same blood as the people of the rest of the country," said Senator Poinexter. "Yet we are governing them here without giving them any opportunity to participate directly or indirectly in their own government."

Senator Poinexter suggested that the provision for a District delegate would have great practical advantages in the transmission of the laws of Congress so far as it related to jurisdiction for the District. A delegate, he said, could give the other members of Congress information about the needs of the District which they themselves could not obtain without great labor.

He said that in his opinion, while the District delegate would be a voice in the House, yet the fact that he had a voice in the deliberations of the House would be of far more consequence.

## BORLAND SCHEME UNDER HOUSE FIRE

Many Pointed Questions Asked  
of Plan to Increase Federal  
Clerks' Hours.

## REPRESENTATIVE BYRNS TARGET FOR QUESTIONS

Admits No Hearing Was Held, and  
That Employees Now Labor  
Overtime Freely.

The Borland added-hour provision was attacked boldly on the floor of the House today by both democrats and republicans. Although the skirmish was during general debate, it forecasts a bitter struggle when the Borland provision is reached under the five-minute rule.

Opponents of the Borland measure bobbed up in the House in the most unexpected corners. Chairman Byrns opened the general debate on the legislative appropriation bill, which is in his charge, and which contains the eight-hour provision. He explained in general terms the figures of the big supply bill, but he had not proceeded ten minutes before men from all over the House were firing questions at him, endeavoring to get an answer as to why the hours of government clerks should be lengthened without compensation.

Chairman Byrns admitted that the Borland rider had been made a part of the bill without previous consideration, without hearing and without investigation. He said frankly that the government clerks are not overpaid and that many departments are now working overtime as it is. Representative Byrns opposed the Borland rider in committee, but as chairman in charge of the bill he was forced into the position of being the champion of a cause in which he has no real interest.

"Does the bill provide for a reduction in the hours of the clerks of the House?" asked Representative Austin of Tennessee.

"Then it does not contain a reduction of expenses," continued Mr. Austin. "If adopted it does not mean the dropping of a single clerk."

"Not unless the House wants to drop them," said Representative Byrns. "The first witness today was Senator Poinexter, who explained the provisions of the delegate bill. He said the need for a delegate in Congress and for the franchise for residents of the District was so obvious that there was little need for further argument. He said he had listened to the argument of Theodore W. Noyes, in support of the Chamberlain constitutional amendment, with great interest at the last meeting of the committee."

### Disclaims Any Conflict.

"I wish to disclaim any conflict between this delegate bill and the constitutional amendment which Mr. Noyes advocated," said Senator Poinexter. "I am not opposing that resolution."

He called attention to the fact that such a resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution must be adopted by a two-thirds vote in both the Senate and the House, and that the states before it can become effective.

He suggested that it might take many years, a generation, to get such a resolution adopted, and that for that reason he believed it was particularly necessary to enact the delegate bill into law now. He pointed out that the Chamberlain amendment providing for the popular election of senators, although the matter was vitally interested in that the states were not so closely interested.

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## PRESIDENT AWAITS DATA FROM BERLIN

Discusses German Communica-  
tion With Members of  
the Cabinet.

## NO CONCLUSION REACHED AFTER LONG DISCUSSION

Acceptability of Teuton Propositions,  
as Outlined by Envoy, Is Care-  
fully Avoided in Talk.

Germany's latest communication on submarine warfare was discussed in detail at today's cabinet meeting and at a separate conference between President Wilson and Secretary Lansing, but no conclusion was reached. It was decided to await data on the way from Berlin regarding instructions alleged to have been issued by the British admiralty to merchant captains for attacks on submarines.

Cabinet members carefully avoided questions on whether Germany's position as outlined by Count von Bernstorff in a note to Secretary Lansing yesterday was acceptable to the American government. It was said that merely the facts were laid before the cabinet without any effort being made to arrive at a decision.

It was reiterated, however, that the United States would continue to stand firmly behind its position that attacks should not be made on merchantmen unarmed or armed for defensive purposes, and would hold Germany accountable if that position is not observed. The chief danger was said by officials to lie in a possible attack on a ship carrying Americans.

### Refuses to Discuss Memorandum.

Secretary Lansing took with him to the White House a pouch understood to contain the German memorandum and other papers relating to the case. The Secretary said there was no justification for statements purporting to give the views of the State Department on the situation. He refused to indicate whether the situation appeared more favorable or less since the receipt of the German memorandum.

It was indicated in well informed quarters that the President would insist on a strict interpretation of the rules of international law as applying to Germany's new submarine warfare. Information forwarded from Berlin purporting to contain proof that the British admiralty had instructed captains of armed merchant ships to attack submarines had not arrived, Mr. Lansing said. The delay was believed to be due to conditions resulting from the war.

### Secretary Lansing's Statement.

Secretary Lansing today issued the following formal statement:

"In view of the publication this morning of what purports to be the views of the State Department on the communication received yesterday from the German ambassador I wish to say that the contents of the communication have not been made public by me, and that any statement as to the views of the State Department on the communication are absolutely untrue."

### Period of Warning Ends.

At that time the period of warning for neutrals, giving them opportunity to advise their nationals not to travel on armed merchantmen, will expire. For several days there has been more than a possibility that Germany at the last moment might make a proposal that she would discontinue practices of reprisal and sink no merchant ships—freighters or passenger liners—without first halting the vessel for examination and putting the crew in a place of safety, as in the old style of naval war, if the allies would remove armament from merchantmen. It was thought England might accept this proposal or that the United States and other neutrals would be convinced, if England refused, that she had no intention of discontinuing the use of armament for offensive purposes.

### Changed by Stone Letter.

This might possibly have given President Wilson proof that armament on merchantmen was not used purely for defense, and thus enable the President to reconcile the two conflicting viewpoints regarding the propriety of merchantmen carrying armament and the impossibility of the United States altering the established law of nations.

Publication of President Wilson's letter to Senator Stone, however, apparently convinced Germany's leading statesmen that no assistance was to be expected from Washington in ending the present anomalous situation regarding rules of submarine warfare and that it was useless to make proposals to the United States which would be to give England more time to replenish her stores while a discussion was in progress at Washington and London. At least two of the highest officials directly concerned appear to be now convinced that Washington has no desire to embarrass Great Britain in the conduct of the war or to do anything which might permit Germany to use the submarine in warfare against commerce.

### Expect Sensational Opening.

Newspapers and the German public generally are primed for a sensational opening of the new submarine campaign. The reader of the average newspaper article or contribution to the papers by a naval expert might expect to find the columns of his newspaper on Thursday too small to contain full accounts of the merchantmen sunk by Germany's big fleet of submarines on the first day of the campaign.

### Two Italian Liners, Bearing Guns for Their Own Defense, Cleared From New York

The Italian liners Giuseppe Verdi and San Guglielmo, at New York, with mounted guns aboard, were ordered cleared today, on assurances from the Italian government that their armament was for defensive purposes only.



WHY NOT THIS?

## GERMANY READY TO LAUNCH NEW SUBMARINE CAMPAIGN

## Berlin Hopes Only That a Clash With the United States May Not Be Pre- cipitated at Once.

BERLIN, February 28, 4 p.m., via London, February 29, 12:10 p.m.—The Associated Press is informed by Germany's leading statesmen that the new rule of submarine warfare, which was announced in the German memorandum regarding the future treatment of armed merchantmen, will positively be put in effect at midnight of tomorrow, Tuesday, February 29.

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## Would Destroy All Ships, Either Armed or Unarmed, Carrying Food to England

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### Only Permissible Reprisal.

"Shall we then let these ships quietly pass which as unarmed English merchantmen cross the ocean? We shall have to do so if we hold to the phantom of torpedoing only armed merchantmen and of sparing neutral ships in all circumstances."

Herr Bernhard thinks that war should be carried out not against certain categories of British ships, but against British commerce on the sea, and declares that the new submarine campaign is the only permissible measure of reprisal "against England's breach of international law."

### Warning Not Expected.

It is not believed that Americans will be warned from traveling on armed merchantmen, and that adequate measures will be taken to see that armament is used only for defensive purposes. German statesmen apparently hope that by the exercise of a certain amount of circumspection matters may drift along for a time without conflict that Americans of their own accord will avoid steamships belonging to belligerents, and that in such incidents as do occur it may be possible for Germany to prove that the ships in question violated rules of warfare and acted offensively.

### German View Is That Law as to Arming of Vessels Is Voided by Conditions

BERLIN, February 29, by wireless to Sayville, N. Y.—The legal issue involved in the question of submarine warfare against armed merchantmen, according to German opinion, to be considered in the light of the facts here set forth," says the Overseas News Agency.

### FRENCH CRUISER SINKS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

PARIS, February 29, via London, February 29, 2:25 p.m.—The auxiliary French cruiser La Provence was sunk in the Mediterranean last Saturday. It was officially announced today. At Malta 296 survivors have been landed. Four hundred survivors were landed at Milo. The ministry of marine estimates the number of survivors at 870. La Provence sank in the middle Mediterranean.

### Revolutionary Plot Hinted

Nicaragua Agents Investigating  
Alleged Activities in New Orleans.

NEW ORLEANS, February 29.—Secret agents of Nicaragua today were said to be investigating reports of an alleged revolutionary plot being fomented in New Orleans against the government of Nicaragua, the purpose of which was said to prevent the ratification of the proposed new treaty with the United States. According to the reports, a clique of so-called "outs" from Central America now living in this country and who were alleged to have been identified with Latin American disturbances in the past, are connected with the alleged conspiracy.

The plot was said to include an offer of \$50,000 for promotion of the scheme and for the assassination of Adolfo Diaz, president of Nicaragua.

## DEFENSES OF VERDUN UNDER TERRIFIC FIRE OF BIG GERMAN GUNS

## New Offensive Being Launched From the East, Where Kaiser's Forces Have Scored Gains.

## Heavy Infantry Fighting in Woivre District Results in Cap- ture By Germans of Manheulles and Other Villages. French Press Counter Attacks.

The German drive at Verdun is now being exerted in greatest force from the east, where the attacking armies have advanced on the plain of the Woivre and reached the base of the heights east of the Meuse at several points.

Berlin today reported new advances in this region along a front approximately twelve miles in length, stretching from Dieppe seven miles northeast of Verdun and three miles due east of Douaumont, to Champlon, thirteen miles southeast of Verdun.

The heaviest infantry fighting of last night seems to have been in the Woivre district, to the south of the fortress, where the Germans attacked and captured the village of Manheulles. The French declare that in a counter attack they attained the western boundary of the village, which they now hold under their fire.

### GERMAN DRIVING POWER LESSENED.

The comparative lull that prevailed for some hours before the renewal of the intense artillery fire reported today indicated that a new phase of the battle might be developing. As a whole, the German attack, while still continuing, has apparently less driving power, while the pressure is being shifted from point to point.

The possibility is indicated by military observers that the crown prince's armies are gathering their forces for a new and concentrated attack at some selected point, and that the thrusts now being made here and there are for the purpose of picking out the weakest spot in the extended line.

### NEED TIME TO SHIFT GUNS.

The Germans, it is noted, need time to emplace their heavy guns, and possibly even now may have brought them up behind their advanced infantry lines closer to the fortress for concentration on its permanent defensive works.

Meanwhile the French are not idle, and are delivering vigorous counter strokes. When attacked, their lines in the stronger positions they now occupy are holding firmer.

Estimates of the number of Germans engaged in the great battle are considerably larger than the 300,000 men believed to have been engaged in the initial operations. Some authorities now declare that there are as many as 750,000 troops engaged in the fighting on the German side, strong reinforcements having been sent to the scene.

## BATTLE MORE INTENSE, PARIS REPORT ASSERTS

PARIS, February 29, 2:35 p.m.—The bombardment to the north of Verdun is continuing with greater intensity. East of the Meuse last night there was a resumption of violent local attacks. Near the village of Douaumont the fighting came to a hand-to-hand encounter, and the Germans were repulsed by French troops.

### Armored Work Captured.

The war office also announced that a small armored work northwest of Douaumont has been stormed by the Germans. The official announcement gives the total number of unrounded prisoners taken as 16,575. There have been captured also seventy-eight cannon and eighty-six machine guns.

### As Viewed by Berlin.

The text of today's official statement follows:

"Very strong artillery activity has continued at several points. 'East of the Meuse we stormed a small armored work directly northwest of the village of Douaumont. Repeated enemy attacks in this region were stopped at the very outset. 'In the Woivre, our troops have passed Dieppe, Abbaucourt and Blanche. They have cleared the extensive wooded region northeast of Watronville and Heudement, and have taken in their heroic advance Manheulles and also Champlon."

### Many Prisoners Taken.

"Up till last night we counted unrounded prisoners, 228 officers and 16,575 men, and further seventy-eight cannon, seven of these heavy and of the most modern kind, and eighty-six machine guns, while uncounted war material is reported as booty. 'At the forester's house at Thiville, northeast of Babonville, the projecting portion of a French position was attacked and taken. A large number of prisoners remained in our hands."

### French in Counter Attack.

"In the Woivre district the Germans were successful, after an intense preparatory artillery fire, in gaining possession of the village of Manheulles. An immediate counter attack on our part brought us back to the western boundary of this village, which we now hold under our own fire. 'In Lorraine the enemy was successful in penetrating several small sections of our advance trenches, but they were almost immediately driven out of these positions. 'There is nothing to report from the remainder of the front."